

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated April 19, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-35 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claim 34 has been amended. Claims 1-35 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 22-25, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,404,239 to Hirai (hereinafter "Hirai"). Claims 10-21 and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,777,275 to Mizutani (hereinafter "Mizutani").

The rejection of claims 1-35 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-9 and 22-25 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second pad provided at other end of the body to be engaged to a connector of a second printed circuit board and electrically connected to the first pad" and "at least one force absorbing edge recess defined in the body." Claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a second pad connected to the second portion and electrically connected to the first pad" and "at least one force absorbing recess portion in the body." Hirai does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The Examiner cites the notch 3b in Hirai as the force absorbing edge recess. Hirai describes the notch 3b as substantially coincident with a dummy electrode 5. Solder is placed on the dummy electrode 6 to form a projection that engages the notch 3b to prevent the TAB 3 from moving. (See Figs. 1 and 2, col. 3, ll. 31-43.) Further, the TAB 3 is bent, and openings 3c, 3d, and 3e are provided to "allow easy bending." So, to the extent that any bending and hence force

absorbing features are to be found in Hirai, they are 3c, 3d, and 3e and not the notch 3b as asserted by the examiner.

Further, the Examiner identifies 3c, 3d, and 3e as the second pad. Actually, as discussed above, openings 3c, 3d, and 3e are present to “allow easy bending” of the TAB 3 and are not a pad at all. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9, 22-25, 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 10-21 and 26-35 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 10-21 and 26-33 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a first pad connected at an end of the first portion” and “a second pad connected at an end of the second portion and electrically connected to the first pad.” Claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a first pad connected to the first portion” and “a second pad connected to the second portion and electrically connected to the first pad.” Mizutani does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The Examiner in asserting the first and second pads were found in Mizutani does not cite specific elements, but only cites a portion of the specification. The section cited discusses conductive patterns, lands, and conductive through holes, but nowhere cites first or second pads. Further, there is not clear indication of “a first pad connected *to the first portion*” and “a second pad connected *to the second portion* and electrically connected to the first pad” in Mizutani. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-21 and 26-35 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2006

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